

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 08669 101728Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----074841 101729Z /45

O 101645Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4084  
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AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USUN NEW YORK 5820  
USMISSION SINAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 8669

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV PEPR IS EG  
SUBJECT: ISRAELI REACTION TO EGYPTIAN COUNTER-PROPOSAL

1. ISRAEL'S REACTION TO THE EGYPTIAN COUNTER-PROPOSAL WAS PREDICTABLY AND ENTIRELY NEGATIVE. OUR ATTEMPTS THIS PAST WEEK WITH DAYAN AND OTHERS TO MAKE SOMETHING FROM THE FACT THAT ISRAELI SECURITY CONCERNS WERE REFERRED TO IN THE EGYPTIAN DOCUMENT HAVE FALLEN ON BARE ROCK. SPROUTING HERE INSTEAD ARE CONSTANT, CAUSTIC AND INDEED DISAPPOINTED ADVERSIONS TO EARLIER U.S. ARGUMENTS THAT A FLEXIBLE SADAT WAS HIDDEN BEHIND HIS RECENT HARD-LINE PUBLIC POSITIONS. BEFORE THE COUNTER-PROPOSAL, ISRAELIS HAD HOPED THAT WASHINGTON WAS RIGHT. MORE AND MORE OF THEM ARE NOW BECOMING CONVINCED THAT WE WERE

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WRONG, THAT THE REAL SADAT IS FOUND IN THE SIX POINTS OF THE EGYPTIAN PAPER, PERHAPS EVEN THAT THE U.S. COLLUDED WITH EGYPT TO PRODUCE THE DREADFUL DOCUMENT.

2. THIS LATTER THEME HAS ABOUNDED HERE SINCE TUESDAY. ISRAELIS KNOW THAT THE U.S. HAS BEEN FOR SOME TIME ON THE BRINK OF PUTTING FORTH ITS OWN IDEAS TO BREAK

THE IMPASSE. THEY REASON THAT SADAT'S TOUGH STANCE INEVITABLY WILL HASTEN THAT DAY. MANY THUS CONCLUDE THAT EITHER THE U.S. CONCEIVED -- EVEN CO-DRAFTED -- THE EGYPTIAN PLAN, OR AT BEST WAS MANEUVERED BY THE CUNNING SADAT WHO REALIZED THAT HIS RIGIDITY WOULD BRING WASHINGTON RUSHING TO THE FORE. NEITHER OF THESE INTERPRETATIONS INCREASES ISRAELI CONFIDENCE IN THE U.S., CONFIDENCE WHICH CONTINUES DISCERNABLY TO SINK.

3. DOMESTICALLY, THE EGYPTIAN PLAN HAS FOR THE MOMENT CERTAINLY STRENGTHENED BEGIN'S ALREADY SOLID POSITION. WEIZMAN IS LEFT TO POINT AT A MIRAGE CALLED SADAT FLEXIBILITY, PERES IN VIENNA SUGGESTS THAT THE EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL MATTERS LESS RATHER THAN MORE, AND DAYAN REGRETS THAT HIS OWN MANEUVERING ROOM HAS BEEN REDUCED. BEGIN'S ASSOCIATES MEANWHILE ARE TELLING EVERYONE IN TOWN THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S DOUBTS ABOUT SADAT HAVE BEEN PROVEN CORRECT, AND THAT ISRAEL'S FORTHCOMING POSITION ON SINAI HAS BEEN ANSWERED WITH ARAB EXTERMISM OF A MOST FAMILIAR KIND, EXCEPT THIS VERSION MIGHT HAVE BEEN MANUFACTURED IN WASHINGTON. DESPITE THE POSITIVE EFFECT OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT, MORE ISRAELIS THAN THIS TIME LAST WEEK WOULD AGREE.

4. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE CURRENT ISRAELI REACTION WILL PROJECT ITSELF FORCEFULLY INTO THE FUTURE. IF LONDON PRODUCES SOMETHING OTHER THAN COMPLETE DEADLOCK, HOPES HERE WILL REVIVE. BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT FOR  
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THE MOMENT, THE EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL HAS UNDERCUT THOSE IN ISRAEL WHO ARGUE THAT BEGIN IS A MAJOR IMPEDIMENT TO PEACE AND THAT THE U.S. IS AN HONEST BROKER IN THE PEACE PROCESS, ACTING IN ISRAEL'S BEST LONG-TERM INTERESTS.  
LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, PEACE TALKS  
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**Draft Date:** 10 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014